

Serial No. 10/811,870

Attorney Docket No. 02-116-RCE

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A washer nozzle for a washer system in a vehicle that washes a windshield of the vehicle, the washer nozzle comprising:

a nozzle body that includes a first body part and a second body part, which are connected together, wherein:

the first body part is ~~molded-made~~ from a resin material and includes an inlet opening, from which washer fluid is inputted into the nozzle body;

the second body part, which is separate from the first body part, is ~~molded-made~~ from a resin material ~~separately from the first body part~~ and includes at least one jet opening, from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield; and

the first body part and the second body part, which are connected together, include a fluid passage that communicates between the inlet opening and the at least one jet opening;

a check valve that is arranged in the fluid passage of the second body part of the nozzle body, wherein the check valve permits forward flow of the washer fluid in a first direction from the inlet opening toward the at least one jet opening and blocks backflow of the washer fluid in a second direction opposite from the first direction; and

a filter that is arranged in the fluid passage of the nozzle body between the inlet opening and the check valve to filter the washer fluid, ~~wherein~~ wherein:

the filter is formed integrally with the first body part of the nozzle ~~body, and body~~;

the check valve is opposed to the ~~filter~~ filter;

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the filter includes a plurality of filter holes, each of which extends through the filter; and

a maximum width of each filter hole is smaller than an inner diameter of each of the at least one jet opening.

2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 1, wherein:

the first body part of the nozzle body includes a valve seat that is provided in the fluid passage and protrudes in a direction away from the filter toward the check valve;

the check valve is seated against the valve seat when the check valve blocks the backflow of the washer fluid in the second direction; and

the check valve is lifted away from the valve seat when the check valve permits the forward flow of the washer fluid in the first direction.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 1, further comprising a spring that is provided in the fluid passage and urges the check valve toward the inlet opening.

8-16 (Canceled)

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17. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 1, further comprising a resilient annular O-ring, wherein:

the second body part includes at least one engaging portion; and

the first body part includes at least one engaging portion, which is engaged with the at least one engaging portion of the second body part to connect the second body part and the first body part together and thereby to resiliently deform and to clamp the O-ring between the second body part and the first body part.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the fluid passage includes an enlarged passage section, which is located in the first body part at a position adjacent to the filter on an upstream side of the filter and has a passage cross sectional area greater than that of an adjacent upstream portion of the fluid passage, which is located adjacent to the enlarged passage section on an upstream side of the enlarged passage section.

20. (Currently amended) A washer nozzle for a washer system in a vehicle that washes a windshield of the vehicle, the washer nozzle comprising:

a nozzle body that includes a first body part and a second body part, ~~which~~ which are formed separately and are connected together, wherein:

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the first body part is made from a resin material and includes an inlet opening, from which washer fluid is inputted into the nozzle body;

the second body part is made from a resin material and includes at least one jet opening, from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield; and

the first body part and the second body part, which are connected together, include a fluid passage that communicates between the inlet opening and the at least one jet opening;

a check valve that is arranged in the fluid passage of the second body part of the nozzle body, wherein the check valve permits forward flow of the washer fluid in a first direction from the inlet opening toward the at least one jet opening and blocks backflow of the washer fluid in a second direction opposite from the first direction; and

a filter that is arranged in the fluid passage of the nozzle body between the inlet opening and the check valve to filter the washer fluid, wherein:

the check valve is opposed to the ~~filter, and filter;~~

the fluid passage includes an enlarged passage section, which is located in the first body part at a position adjacent to the filter on an upstream side of the filter and has a passage cross sectional area greater than that of an adjacent upstream portion of the fluid passage, which is located adjacent to the enlarged passage section on an upstream side of the enlarged passage ~~section~~section;

the filter is formed integrally with the first body part of the nozzle body;

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the filter includes a plurality of filter holes, each of which extends through the filter; and

a maximum width of each filter hole is smaller than an inner diameter of each of the at least one jet opening.

21. (Currently amended) A washer nozzle for a washer system in a vehicle that washes a windshield of the vehicle, the washer nozzle comprising:

a nozzle body that is made from a resin material and includes:

an inlet opening, from which washer fluid is inputted into the nozzle body;

at least one jet opening, from which the washer fluid is jetted out of the nozzle body against the windshield; and

a fluid passage that communicates between the inlet opening and the at least one jet opening;

a filter that is arranged in the fluid passage of the nozzle body to filter the washer fluid,

wherein:

the filter is formed integrally with a portion of the nozzle body;

the filter includes a plurality of filter holes, each of which extends through the filter; and

a maximum width of each filter hole is smaller than an inner diameter of each of the at least one jet opening;

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a valve seat that is formed in the fluid passage of the nozzle body on a downstream side of the filter;

a check valve that is arranged on the downstream side of the filter in a corresponding portion of the fluid passage of the nozzle body and is displaceable relative to the valve seat in an axial direction of the corresponding portion of the fluid passage; and

a resilient element that urges the check valve against the valve seat in the axial direction toward the filter in such a manner that the check valve permits forward flow of the washer fluid in a first direction from the inlet opening toward the at least one jet opening and blocks backflow of the washer fluid in a second direction opposite from the first direction.

22. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 21, wherein the check valve is coaxial with respect to the filter.

23. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 21, wherein the check valve is arranged adjacent to the filter.

24. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 21, wherein the valve seat is formed as an annular protrusion, which surrounds the filter and protrudes away from the filter in the axial direction.

25. (Canceled)

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26. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 21, wherein:

the nozzle body includes a first body part and a second body part, which are formed separately and are connected together;

the first body part includes the inlet opening and a first part of the fluid passage; and

the second body part includes the at least one jet opening and a second part of the fluid passage.

27. (Previously presented) The washer nozzle according to claim 26, wherein the fluid passage includes an enlarged passage section, which is located in the first body part at a position adjacent to the filter on an upstream side of the filter and has a passage cross sectional area greater than that of an adjacent upstream portion of the fluid passage, which is located adjacent to the enlarged passage section on an upstream side of the enlarged passage section.